

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A display system for use in a communications network, comprising:
2 a display device; and
3 plural display windows at the display device, the plural windows for
4 simultaneously displaying multiple content, wherein a first display window displays video
5 programming content and wherein a second display window displays content from an instant
6 messaging (IM) application.
- 1 2. The display system of claim 1, wherein the video programming content
2 is a broadcast television program.
- 1 3. The display system of claim 2, wherein the broadcast television
2 program is provided over one of a plurality of selectable television channels, and wherein the
3 display device is a television screen.
- 1 4. The display system of claim 1, wherein the instant messaging content
2 comprises:
3 a personal ID associated with a user of the IM application.
- 1 5. The display system of claim 4, wherein the user is remote from the
2 display system.
- 1 6. The display system of claim 5, wherein the instant messaging content
2 further comprises a program ID for identifying broadcast television program being viewed by
3 the remote user.
- 1 7. The display system of claim 6, wherein the instant messaging content
2 further comprises a message sent from the remote user to a user at the display system.
- 1 8. The display system of claim 6, wherein the communications network
2 has multiple users each having a display device, wherein the communications network
3 includes a server storing instant messaging content for display at each display device, and
4 wherein the server may be used to aggregate instant messaging content from the multiple
5 users, whereby video programming activity by multiple users can be tracked at the server.

1 9. The display system of claim 5, wherein the instant messaging content
2 further comprises a selectable telephone communications display element, and wherein a
3 telephone communications line is established over the communications network between the
4 user at the display system and the remote user, when the telephone communications display
5 element is selected.

1 10. The display system of claim 9, wherein the telephone communications
2 line is connected at a telephone device separate from the display system, and such telephone
3 communications line uses the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

1 11. The display system of claim 5, wherein a user at the display system is a
2 subscriber to video programming for display at the display system, wherein such user is
3 assigned one or more security keys in order to receive the video programming over the
4 communications network, wherein such user may send an attachment to the remote user, the
5 attachment comprising a video data file representing the video programming, and a security
6 key associated with the video programming, and wherein video programming represented by
7 the video data file is displayed to the remote user only if the remote user has a security key
8 matching the security key associated with the video programming.

1 12. The display system of claim 1, wherein a user at the display system is a
2 subscriber to a VDSL service, and wherein the VDSL service provides telephone, video
3 programming and internet access service to the subscriber over the communications network.

1 13. The display system of claim 1, wherein the video programming content
2 is provided to the display system by a satellite television service.

1 14. The display system of claim 1, wherein the video programming content
2 is provided to the display system by a cable television service.

1 15. In a communications network having a plurality of users and a user
2 interface device associated with each user, the user interface device comprising:
3 display means; and
4 means for simultaneously displaying multiple content to a viewer at the
5 display means, including first window means for displaying video programming content at a
6 first display window at said display means, and second window means for simultaneously

7 displaying content from an instant messaging (IM) application at a second window at said
8 display means.

1 16. A method for displaying content to users in a communications
2 network, comprising:
3 displaying content at a display device associated with each user; and
4 providing plural windows at the display device, with a first window displaying
5 video programming content and a second window for simultaneously displaying instant
6 messaging content.